

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /129 W

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O R 131012Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8493

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4118

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PINS CASC ET

SUBJ: TENENCO FIVE

REF: STATE 73758

1. IN MEETING MORNING APRIL 13 WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN DEVOTED LARGELY TO ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEPTTEL) I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTTEL WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS BASED ON INTERVENING MESSAGES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

2. IN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS OF PAST WEEK CONCERNING TENNECO FIVE I MENTIONED FACT THAT OUR VICE CONSUL IN ASMARA HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE GOV GEN AND THAT I HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MIN INTERIOR. I SAID THAT IN MIDDLE OF WEEK IT HAD SEEMED DESIREABLE FOR IEG TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURES TO CONVEY TO ELF ITS READINESS TALK ABOUT RELEASE OF TENN FIVE. DEPARTMENT HAD BECOME GREATLY CONCERNED OVER FAILURE TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ELF AND HAD INSTRUCTED ME TO MAKE FOUR POINTS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN ADDIS. FIRSTLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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USG CONSIDERS IT OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE THAT IEG

OFFICIALS, TENNECO PERSONNEL AND USG OFFICIALS WORK VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER ON THIS PROBLEM BOTH HERE AND IN ASMARA. SECONDLY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NO MILITARY ACTION BE TAKEN IN AREAWHERE CAPTIVES HELD, AS THIS WOULD ENDANGER THEIR LIVES. THIRDLY, USG CONSIDERS IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT IEG TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO CONVEY TO ELF IN EFFECTIVE FASHION ITS WILLINGNESS DISCUSS RELEASE OF TENN FIVE. I TOLD PRIMIN, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF OUR LATEST INFORMATION INDICATING THAT CAPTORS AND TENN FIVE WERE PROCEEDING FROM NAKFA NORTHWARD TOWARDS SUDANESE BORDER, I WAS NOT REQUESTING FOR THE PRESENT THAT IEG MAKE NEW EFFORT TO CONTACT THE ELF. NEW INFORMATION MIGHT SWIFTLY ALTER PICTURE HOWEVER AND NEED FOR RAPID IEG EFFORT OF THIS NATURE MIGHT ARISE SUDENTLY. FOURTHLY, I NEEDED TO KNOW WITH WHOM I COUL DEAL AT HIGH LEVEL IN ADDIS IF I NEEDED REQUEST ADDITIONAL ACITION BY IEG.

3. PRIMIN EXPRESSED REGRET THAT TENN FIVE HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE FOR MAXIMUM IEG-TENNECO-USG COOPERATION IN RESOLVING PROBLEM. IEG WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE RELEASE OF TENN FIVE. HE WOULD PHONE GOV GEN TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE AND TO INDICATE THAT GOV GEN SHOULD BE IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH VICE CONSUL PERRY. HE SAID THAT I COULD BE IN CONTACT WITH SECURITY CHIEF COLONEL SOLOMON KADIR WITH REGARD TO EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND SHOULD CONTACT DR. MENNASSIE IF POLICY ISSUE ARISES.

4. PRIMIN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM UNSYG WALDHIEM REQUESTING HE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE OBTAIN RELEASE OF TENN FIVE.
WYMAN

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